Cumberland Gap. Tenn. July 28th/62

Cousin Dave's

I'm from the present opportunity to write you a short epistle to let you know that I am all O.K. enjoying first rate health and excellent spirits. Have enough to eat drink and wear and plenty of time to rest. by the way I have got pretty well rested. I have not done as much hard work this summer as it would be to crush the grain we have a little exercise occasionally. They send us out sometimes to guard the convoy trains. we have just returned from an excursion of that sort we were down in Tenn. about 15 miles from the Gap to a little town called Tazewell about half as large as Barnbee. we were gone two days had lots of sport. skirmishing with the rebel pickets. we fired

about 150 yards from our Battery. We do
don't think we killed any of the fellows
at least we couldn't find any whole
ones and but very few pieces, but
we astonished some of them tremendous-
ly, as I'm told to say about my
shooting ones. We got back last
night about 11 o'clock and are roped
up in our little nest in the Gap
where we will have to lounge about
for a couple of weeks I presume before
we will be called out again.
I can't imagine why we are kept
here in idleness when we might
be of some service elsewhere, but
it's none of my business, and I don't
worry much about it either for this
place is good enough for me.
There is lots of fruit in this vicinity
we have had ripe apples for two
weeks. There are a great many
peaches but they are not ripe yet.
There is very quantity of blackberries

near by here. we get lots of them and make pies and short cakes. I have been out several times but I have never succeeded in getting in to camp with any berries. I think perhaps I might do better if Mary was here to scold me a little. Why in the world don't some of you write to me. I have not heard a word for as much as a month from any of you. get a couple of sheets of foolscap and write then and tell me all the news what you are doing and write all the news generally. how do you get along with those 3 pill girls, I imagine you must have a pretty hard time of it. all alone as you are.

They must be getting pretty practical don't tell them ~~that~~ this for they will probably call it obscene profane language and then we could not understand each other. I suppose Mary is much busier than ever. If you see

her. tell her she had better write to me pretty soon or I shall get mad my patience is about exhausted how have you been down to the sandwich house lately. if you happen down that way give them my respects. Mother Plummer in particular. I want to keep on pretty good terms with the old lady if possible. so she wont hesitate about giving me that daughter of hers

have you any idea of enlisting Dan, if you have you can join our company if you wish. one of our Lieutenants has gone to Wis to recruit ~~men~~. he is probably in Lax now started from here last monday week if you wish to address him direct to O. F. Nutting Lax.

I should advise you not to enlist for I am pretty certain you would not like it. it takes about a year for a fellow to learn to like this kind of life. and I am in hopes a year from this time this matter will be settled. good by for the present give my respects to all the folks

From your Cousin Ed Goodrich

CUMBERLAND GAP
JULY
29
TEN.

Received August 7th
" 92

Mr. Davis Hackett
Baraboo, Sauk Co.
Wisconsin